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USDA CLUB



News

Christmas Issue 1961

Dallas, Texas

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MOSTLY ABOUT PEOPLE

C & C SECTION

GEORGE BELSER, Head of Bulk Grain Unit, was honored with a cake and coffee fete on December 7, together with the festivities featuring R. B. Baird's surprise birthday celebration. George resigned Dec. 8 to work for the Industrial Accounting Department (Programming), General Dynamics, Fort Worth.

BERTHA REINHARDT'S daughter, Joan Phipps, was winner of the grand prize at the annual clothing contest of the State Fair of Texas. Her entry was a white afternoon dress. She also won first prize in the sports ensemble category. Included in her prizes were a portable sewing machine, patterns, and sewing aids from various companies. Joan is a former employee of this agency.

BETTY DELSING is improving after being absent for several months.

W. A. (Bill) BOREN was awarded a certificate by the Annual Coach's Award Committee, commending him on his fine qualities while helping the young players achieve their maximum rewards. A heartfelt thanks and job well done, Bill!

A similar award was also made to W. H. CAMPBELL by another committee. Yours was well deserved, too, Bill.

- Janet Smith

DACD

CONGRATULATIONS to ROY HAUCK who was married November 18 to Anneliese Bruegmann, a native of Prussia who escaped to West Berlin in 1957. They are at home at 1916 Chatburn Court, Ft. Worth, Texas. She is a professional teacher of languages, speaking French, German, Russian and English. Annaliese is also an expert swimmer and was the national diving champion of Germany in 1943 and 1944. According to Roy, he has her well trained. She has his pipe and slippers laid out for him when he arrives home in the evening. He says she is a good cook, too.

CORA BOWEN put her shoulder to the wheel to push her idea to revise one of the forms we use daily. The reward was in the form of some of the "Folding Green Stuff" to the tune of \$80. Congratulations, Cora!

- D. L. Arrington

COMMODITY OPERATIONS

DOROTHY HEFTON is now employed with Railroad Retirement.

SALLIE LOU BENTON is in Wysong Hospital, McKinney, recuperating from surgery. We are glad to report she is doing better and we hope to have her back with us in a few weeks.

CORDELIA KIRKPATRICK returned from a vacation in Florida. She visited relatives and attended the National Eastern Star Convention.

A newcomer in our section is LOUISE MEDCALFE.

We are glad to welcome PEARLIE MILLER back from an extended illness.

- Leota Smith

ACCOUNTING SECTION, FI

ISOBEL LOVE'S daughter, BARBARA LOVE, who worked in Loan & Custody last summer, was married Dec. 13 to Lt. Mason Brown in Nurenberg, Germany. Lt. Brown is with the Corps of Engineers stationed at Kitzengen, Germany, and is formerly from Irving.

DRUE ARMSTRONG drove to Colorado for two weeks the latter part of October. He went deer hunting at Rifle, Col. and shot two deer. He also visited with old friends at the VA in the Federal Center at Denver where he was formerly employed.

NEW ARRIVALS are Cheri Lea Stark, MARVIN STARK'S daughter, born Sept. 20; Pamela Kay Stoker, BOB STOKER'S daughter, born Sept. 22; Philip Gordon White, PAT WHITE'S son, born Sept. 11.

- Naomi Broyles

DATA PROCESSING DIVISION

A number of Data Processing Division employees have recently departed for greener pastures. Employees accepting programming assignments with Convair in Fort Worth are DELMER FLILER, BURL W. PITTILO, DONALD LINEBARGER, DANNY R. STRANATHAN, ELSTER VERZWYVELT, FRANCIS SMITH, JIM FLEMING, ANNE ELLIS, HAROLD THOMPSON and ART LESKO.

Other employees who accepted positions with different concerns are: JACK BASDEN, Honeywell; BILLY BARRIER, IBM Service Co., MARY COCERGINE, Dr. R. Cotten; BILLY MIZE, Chance Vought; and WILLIAM BOOZER, Blue Cross. NORMA HOLLANSWORTH will move to Belleville, Ill., as her husband accepted a position with Western Union. Our best wishes go with these employees.

JO ANN CHAPMAN, former programmer in DPD, had a visit from Santa early this year. Charles Weldon Chapman, Jr. was born December 4, weighed 6 pounds. Nice little income tax deduction!

Christmas was a little early this year for the VERZWYVELT family, also. Betty presented Elster with a baby boy, Gary Paul, 9 lbs., 9 ozs., on December 9.

We are happy to report that BERT CANNEFAX is recuperating very nicely from his operation of Nov. 23, and is now at home. He expects to be back at work in a couple of weeks.

THENIE L. "TINA" WIESE of DPD, with other citizens of Dallas, received a "Crusade for Freedom Award" presented by the Business and Professional Women of Dallas, in recognition of contribution to the progress of the State of Texas through support of equal legal rights for men and women. Awards were presented by Mrs. Ruth Fox, past president of the Texas Federation of B & FW Clubs at a luncheon. The guest speaker for the occasion was Judge Clarence Guittard of the 14th District Court.

WEDDING BELLS!

JIM FLEMING and BETTY CONLEY - Now living in Ft. Worth.

CHARLES WEAVER and PAT GILLAM were married in November in Washington, D.C.

ALAYNA JORDAN and WILBUR DITTEMORE.

* * * * *

MARLENE DIETRICH has accepted a key-punch position with Air Force Procurement. Good luck, Marlene!

- Billie James

"YOU JUST CAN'T HARDLY FIND A QUILL
NO MORE WHICH CAN WRITE LIKE THAT"

"...If you can but kindle in your mind any strong desire, if you can but keep predominant any wish for some particular excellence or attainment, the gusts of imagination will break away, without any effect ... (or) trace....

"...You know a gentleman who...hoped that he should appear to attain, amidst all the ease of carelessness, and all the tumult of diversion, that knowledge and those accomplishments which mortals of the common fabric obtain only through mute abstraction and solitary drudgery.... Let all fancies, illusive and destructive, be banished henceforward from your thoughts forever. Resolve, and keep your resolution; choose, and pursue your choice. If you spend this day in study, you will find yourself still more able to study tomorrow; not that you are to expect that you shall at once obtain a complete victory. Depravity is not easily overcome. Resolution will sometimes relax, and diligence will sometimes be interrupted; but let no accidental surprise or deviation, whether short or long, dispose you to despondence. Consider these failings as incident to all mankind. Begin again where you left off, and endeavor to avoid the seducements that prevailed over you before.

"This, my dear friend, is advice which, perhaps, has been often given you, and given you without effect. But this advice, if you will not take from others, you must take from your own reflections, if you propose to do the duties of the station to which the bounty of Providence has called you."

The preceding is an excerpt, slightly altered, from a letter written by Dr. Samuel Johnson, the great English philosopher of the Eighteenth Century. The addressee was a young friend who had grown almost desperate in his own indecision as to a career. It may be presumed that the young man took some of his older friend's advice. The young man? James Boswell - to become famous for writing one of the monumental biographies. His subject - Dr. Samuel Johnson.

-David M. Wells

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AMS AT 708

Our sympathy is extended to RALPH COMPTON (Reproduction) on the loss of his father, and to JUANITA WILCOX (Information) whose husband passed away recently.

JIMMY WYATT'S daughter, Carolyn, is at home and improving after surgery.

- Betty Day

BITS FROM TMD (ASCS)

Santa will find VAL WARD in Arkansas and DELMA DAVIS in San Antonio this Christmas Season.

After 10 years of government service, LORENA SMITH is retiring on Jan. 5 to be married to Mr. Toledo Kemendo of Dallas. Lorena's host of friends joins together in wishing the happy couple the best of everything in the years to come.

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THE USDA CLUB NEWS is a monthly publication of the USDA CLUB of Dallas, edited by David M. Wells.

USDA EUROPEAN TOUR

1961

(Clara Mae Cannefax)

On August 22, we (Evelyn Gathings was my traveling companion) boarded a New York bound jet to join 26 other people for a 31-day tour of 10 European countries. After a day and half in New York we departed New York's Idlewild Airport at 11:00 p.m. on August 23 with a large crowd aboard, including the USDA European Tour members. I think, as each of us boarded the jet and settled into our seats and heard the quiet hum of the jet engines as they started, we knew our dream had really started. There was much unconcealed excitement all about us. Shortly after takeoff, cocktails were served and we began to relax and enjoy the soft music - conversation buzzed, in making the acquaintance of our tour members and chatting. We thoroughly enjoyed a delicious dinner of creamed chicken with mushrooms on rice and English peas, lettuce and cucumber salad, rolls, coffee and a dessert of pineapple, pear and apple. The flight over was wonderful-so smooth - as if you were sitting in your room. Flew at 33,000 feet. Before very long a great difference in time (picked up 7 hrs.). Lights out! Slept only a few hours and then we were served breakfast of orange juice, coffee and sweet rolls. Barely finished when announcement made we were approaching Ireland. Could see the houses and the small plots of farms - looked like a patch quilt - then London!

Landed promptly on the scheduled time of 10:00 a.m. (3:00 a.m. Dallas Time). We were met at the plane by our Courier, who was to be with us throughout our tour. Four days were spent in London visiting Westminster Abbey, St. James Palace, Tower of London, Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace where we witnessed the colorful changing of the Guard; with trips to Eton College, the magnificent Windsor Castle, gorgeous Hampton Gardens, Oxford (the University City), Woodstock (birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill), and Stratford-On-Avon, visiting Shakespeare's birthplace and Anne Hathaway's cottage. While in London, it was interesting to see the much-heard-of typically English businessman with his briefcase and traditional bowler hat and umbrella. Visited an English "Pub" and thoroughly enjoyed a "Whimpy" (hamburger). The English take life easy - no rushing - and they start Saturdays at noon enjoying the weekend--even the department stores close. The Thames River is full of sail boats, people lounging on the banks and fishing, Crickett games being played, the highways lined with families having a weekend outing. Everyone who can leaves the big city for the countryside by automobile (all small), motorbike, motor-scooter, motorcycle with side car for wife and children--and all on the wrong side of the streets and roads!

Departed London by chartered plane for Rotterdam where our International Tours bus met us. Comfortably settled in our new bus, we traveled on to Amsterdam, a beautiful city of one million people (one-half of which have a bicycle) and 451 bridges. Toured the city and visited a diamond cutting workshop. A boat ride around the city by night through the canals is a must and is a magnificent sight. In Holland, one must have his own front door, no matter how small an entrance, and, of course, in the city the majority of the

people (due to lack of space) live over a place of business. Mirrors are placed by upstairs windows and angled in such a way that the dweller can look in the mirror and see the person ringing the door bell without going downstairs (a good way to avoid your creditors, according to our Courier). We departed Amsterdam driving via The Hague, continuing to Antwerp for a short tour and on to Brussels. In Belgium two languages are spoken - in the north Flemish and in the south French. There is rivalry between the north and the south. When attending school, it is compulsory to learn both languages but after completing school they absolutely refuse to speak the "rivalry" language. While in Brussels, visited the site of the 1958 World's Fair and all of the ladies in the tour made lace purchases for which Brussels is famous. Continued through Louvain, St. Trond, Liege, and into Germany to Cologne for a stop-over and sightseeing. Motored along the banks of the Rhine River from Cologne to Bonn, capital of Western Germany, where we visited the home of Beethoven; proceeded to Koblenz where we boarded a steamer for a most scenic trip up the Rhine to Bingen where our bus met us and then on through Mainz and Darmstadt to Heidelberg. You haven't been to Heidelberg if you don't visit the famed Red Ox Inn of the Student Prince, which I did. Found it filled mostly with GI's and their wives longing to hear about the States. Upon leaving Heidelberg toured southward through the heart of the Black Forest, so called because of its denseness; trees so close that it is quite dark within the forest and one could easily become lost. Southern Germany reminded me very much of Texas - the rolling terrain. Farms and orchards were well kept and every inch of tillable ground utilized. (This is true throughout Europe.) Flowers were grown in window boxes, as they are throughout England, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland. Traveling through the cities of Schaffhausen, Wintethur and Zurich arrived in Lucerne which is situated on Lake Lucerne. It was cool enough to be called "chilly". Switzerland is a beautiful country and so clean - they even scrub the sidewalks. This is one place I would like to have stayed longer.

On September 5 we departed for Innsbruck, Austria, going through the show-place of Vaduz (capital of the principality of Lichenstein). This tiny kingdom is only 62 miles square. Innsbruck is another very beautiful and clean place. Skiing is a compulsory subject in secondary school. The scenery was magnificent and the air cold as we traveled over the famed Brenner Pass and into Italy stopping at Cortina for a memorable lunch and continuing on to Venice. The only means of transportation in Venice, a city of canals (no streets at all) with 410 bridges, is by gondola. Traffic lights are in operation at canal intersections to aid waterway traffic. By night we took a gondola ride on the canals and, naturally, were serenaded by the gondoliers. (It seemed everyone in Italy had a good voice.) The entire city is built on piling which is driven down as close together as cigarettes in a pack; they absorb water and swell tight together forming a solid block on which buildings are constructed. We rode water buses and walked through the center of Venice--St. Mark's Square. Here we saw St. Mark's Basilica with its beautiful gold mosaics, the Winged Lion which is the symbol of Venice and the Doge's Palace, once the headquarters of the rulers of Venice, and the Tower Bells which are struck on the hour by two huge moving bronze figures atop the tower. We also visited a Venetian Glass Factory and watched the making (all by hand) of various glass ware.

The trip from Venice to Rome, the Eternal City, was made by train which was an interesting experience. Our bus was waiting (having traveled ahead while we were in Venice) and took us to our hotel. Three full days were spent in Rome touring the Vatican City including the Sistine Chapel and Basilica of St. Peter with its magnificent dome designed by Michelangelo. Visited the Coliseum which had a seating capacity of 500,000. Near the Coliseum is the Forum, center of ancient Rome where ruins of buildings and monuments mark the old streets and public gathering places. Portions of the wall which surrounded Ancient Rome are still standing and the Ancient Gate still exists, through which we passed. It is against the law in Rome to honk your horn--you just have to watch out for yourself, and at night they signal with their headlights. Rome is truly a beautiful city, and there is so much to see and do that it would have been nice to have had more time in Rome. Many points of interest were visited while in Italy including Naples, Pompeii, Florence, Assisi where the recent movie, "St. Francis of Assisi" was filmed. Viewing the beautiful white leaning Tower of Pisa; on to Rapallo, a gay Italian Riviera resort, and on through Genoa to Nice, situated on the French Riviera. An enjoyable weekend was spent in Nice and from here a trip was made to nearby Monaco seeing "our Grace's" palace situated on a cliff overlooking the city and the harbour where many fabulous yachts were anchored, and tested our luck at the Casino of Monte Carlo. From Nice we proceeded northward to Paris stopping to visit the Royal Palace of Fontainebleau and touring the beautiful gardens. As we neared Paris the Eiffel Tower was sighted--a great thrill!

The four days in Paris were chucked full of exciting things. An afternoon excursion was made to Versailles, the vast magnificent palace of Louis XIV surrounded by its park and probably the most beautiful gardens in the world, visiting the famed Hall of Mirrors where President Kennedy was entertained on his visit to Paris. In Paris the department stores are called "Galleries." One evening we attended the Folies Bergeres where they had an audience sing-song and believe it or not, they played "Deep in the Heart of Texas". Our last night was spent in viewing the illuminations of Paris and then night clubbing including a visit to the famed Moulin Rouge winding up the evening (morning) with French Onion Soup and Wine in the Market Place - a tradition which has been imported to New Orleans. We departed Orly Field, Paris, for the home flight at 2:00 p.m. arriving in New York at 4:30 p.m., picking up time on the flight over. After clearing customs, boarded American Airline plane for Dallas -- thus ending 31 eventful days abroad - with breakfast in Paris, France and dinner in Dallas, Texas - on the same day, requiring a little over 10 hours' travel time.

Throughout Europe we were treated warmly and with good humor. The expressions on the faces of the natives as we would pass through their villages and towns gave you the feeling they were pleased just because you had chosen to travel in their country and often times would wave greetings. In touring Europe, for the greater part, by bus, we were able to view the countrysides - farms, gardens, orchards, vineyards - and see the cattle

grazing. Words can't describe the beautiful scenery of Switzerland. The always crisp cool air is invigorating. All Europeans eat lightly at breakfast (mostly just coffee and sweet rolls and in some countries cheeses), but the mid-day and evening meals are a ritual, actually more courses than the average person can eat. Memorable dishes were Lazanya in Cortina, Italy; cheese Fondue in Switzerland; and the never-to-be forgotten French Hamburger and French pastries. As for languages--of course, being on a tour with a courier, it is not essential. However, the language problem doesn't exist in any serious extent. It is surprising to find that most of the people who serve you in hotels and restaurants, and even in most shops, speak several languages, including English. But, even when you encounter situations where conversation is impossible because of the language, you will find that somehow you can communicate, one with the other. Hand gestures, a little "ham acting", and you will end up by getting what you want--and many times these occasions become somewhat hilarious. It was great fun shopping for the many beautiful things that are so reasonably priced in the various countries. As to monies--each of us was given a money converter which we referred to religiously, especially when shopping, in order that we would know what the equivalent cost would be in American money. We were warned--and were careful--not to cash too many Travelers Checks before leaving a country, since the next country would only exchange paper money and not coins from another country. So, usually when approaching a border, we would purchase post cards or any small items in order to use up any change we might have before leaving a country. Crossing borders are not complicated at all--passports were requested and stamped only several times - never did we have to open our luggage - only upon returning to the U. S. and then our luggage was checked closely, mainly to determine that we were not bringing in more than our allowed \$100.00; or if we were, to figure the amount of import duty to be paid.

All in all, a wonderful, well-planned trip - and enjoyed to the fullest extent; but, at the same time, a feeling of great pride welled up inside when the New York skyline came into view and an even greater pride and secure feeling when landing in "Big D" - home!

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DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL

Postmaster General Day in the official Postal Bulletin, as reported by the Weekly Federal Employees News Digest, Washington: "While we are concerned with mechanization..we are even more concerned with..humanization. Consequently, our policy will continue to place a serious emphasis on the art of human relations..We expect that each employee, regardless of his status..will treat all other employees with respect, kindness, and consideration. What we refer to as the "Dignity of the Individual" we want to see demonstrated in the lives of our people..We, of this Administration are so committed."

This News Digest concludes.."As enlightened and progressive a personnel move as has ever been issued by a Government agency."

TO YOUR HEALTH

To enjoy a happy holiday season, you should be feeling fit. Colds, "flu", and other ailments can mar your Christmas and New Year activities. Despite the rush and demands of this season, be mindful of your health.

Fatigue lowers body resistance to disease. Get sufficient rest and sleep. If you are late with your shopping, make two or three short shopping trips instead of a long exhausting one. Some late hours are part of the celebration, but plan some extra rest on days after.

Enjoy the festivities, but try to eat regularly, without too much over-eating of rich foods. Do not skip lunch in order to eat a heavy dinner. You will feel better by eating three proper meals each day and not so much "nibbling" between.

Avoid "over-drinking" as well as over-eating. This can be detrimental to your health or worse - can cause a fatal accident. Recall the traffic warning sign: "If you drink, don't drive. If you drive, don't drink." Even a small alcoholic drink or two can affect your judgment. A slight misjudgment while driving can cause an accident.

Have a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season!

- Jean Morgan, R.N.

Be SAFETY-CONSCIOUS and keep US in USDA safe from DisAbility!

USDA CLUB VICE-PRESIDENT ILL

Mrs. Frances Heard, USDA Club vice-president, who works in Poultry Inspection, has been hospitalized for several days. We wish for Frances a very speedy recovery. Santa Claus can ill afford doing without your services, Frances.

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GOODIES MOVING - USDA CLUB GAINS

The participation by USDA Club members from all offices has been very good this holiday season in purchasing the items offered by the USDA Club. This is very heartening since the small profits realized by the Club on these items represent practically our only source of revenue short of asking for donations. President Glenn Hass reports that we have already disposed of 150 five pound bags of raw peanuts; approximately 1,000 cans of salted nuts; and 125- 5 lb. jars of honey. Our special thanks to Eston Dennard who arranged for the purchase of the raw peanuts from Southwestern Peanut Growers Assn. at Gorman. The salted nuts came from Fisher Nut Co. with whom the initial contact was made several seasons ago by Jim Wright. The honey has been secured and delivered to the office by Hal Wright and the sales have been handled by Jimmy Hyles. The big sales pusher on the other items has been Mary Maloney with assistance from Joy Smith and others. Glenn himself has worked with the packaged peanuts.

As you can see it takes a whole bunch of people to make these things a success and the thanks of the Club go to all.

Personnel Management Division of Dallas ASCS Commodity Office points out the following changes in the Rules and Regulations covering the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program were effective November 1, 1961:

Re-registration: An employee whose enrollment was terminated because of his completion of 365 days in a nonpay status, because he had a break in service of more than three days, or because he was furloughed by reason of reduction in force, must register within 31 days after his return to pay status.

Change in family status: An employee or annuitant may at any time register to change his enrollment from self and family to self alone.

Effective Dates: Generally the effective date of enrollments or changes of enrollment is the first day of the first payperiod which begins after the Health Benefits Registration Form is received by the employing office and which follows a pay period during any part of which the employee, if not a substitute in the postal field service, or annuitant is in pay or annuity status.

Suspension of enrollment on entering a uniformed service: Enrollment and coverage of an employee or annuitant who enters on active duty or active duty for training in one of the uniformed service (i) for a period of time which is not limited to 30 days or less, and (ii) under conditions which entitle him to reemployment in his civilian position, and the coverage of the members of his family, are suspended on the date of entry. An employee's enrollment is reinstated without change when he returns to active duty in his civilian position, and an annuitant's enrollment is reinstated without change when he is separated from the uniformed service. An employee may register to enroll and an employee or annuitant may register to change his enrollment within 31 days after his return to active duty in his civilian position with reemployment rights. However, if he returns to active duty in a civilian position under conditions which do not entitle him to exercise his reemployment rights, he must register as provided for new employees.

An eligible employee who is covered by another employee's enrollment may, within 31 days before or after suspension, register to be enrolled.

Further information on the Health Benefits Program may be secured from Mrs. Juanita Buck, PMD.

The USDA LIBRARY in Washington is the world's largest collection of agricultural reference material. The Library has more than a million books, journals, pamphlets, reports, and theses. Microfilms are in 50 languages from more than 100 countries.

-- USDA Employee News Bulletin

USDA OFFICES MARK TENTH BIRTHDAY

A local USDA office has recently entered its second ten years of operation--the office of the North Texas Marketing Area, Milk Marketing Orders Division, ASCS.

This office administers the terms and provisions of a milk marketing order issued by the Secretary of Agriculture regulating the handling of all milk distributed within a 16-county area for which Dallas and Fort Worth serve as trade centers.

The purpose of a milk marketing order is to insure orderly marketing and stable prices to producers supplying milk to a local market and to insure an ample supply of wholesome milk to local consumers at all times. This is accomplished by establishing minimum prices which handlers or processors of milk must pay producers. Prices are established on the basis of local market supply and demand conditions and cannot be maintained at artificial levels. The local office computes and announces minimum prices to be paid by handlers on the basis of provisions in the order; verifies payment of these minimum prices by inspection of books and records of the handlers; makes quantitative laboratory analyses of milk for components which influence the prices to be paid; and compiles and releases statistical data regarding the local market.

In charge of the office is Mr. Byford W. Bain, who has served as Market Administrator for the entire 10-year life of this office. To assist him, he employs Mr. John B. Rosenbury as Assistant Market Administrator, Mr. John W. Beckett as Chief Auditor, Mr. Carl D. Meador as Marketing Specialist, Mr. James R. Fleming as Chemist, and 20 other persons. This office is located at 2621 W. Mockingbird Lane. Mr. Bain has also served as Market Administrator of the Central West Texas Marketing Area since its origin in 1952 and maintains an office for that area in Abilene.

The North Texas order was the first milk marketing order in effect in Texas. There are now six others--Austin-Waco, Central West Texas, Corpus Christi, Red River Valley, San Antonio, and Texas Panhandle. Public hearings, a required procedural step in the issuance of any milk marketing order, were held in 1961 on industry proposals for milk marketing orders for the Lubbock-Plainview and the Rio Grande Valley marketing areas, the latter of which would include El Paso. There are 82 milk marketing orders in operation in the United States.

Marketing orders had their origin in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933. They have also been authorized and used in a somewhat different form for a number of other commodities, mostly fresh fruits and vegetables. This year their use was authorized for additional commodities and a public hearing is now in progress on a proposed order for turkeys and turkey hatching eggs.

(Arrangements for above article by J. W. Beckett, USDA Club Director)

"IS SANTA CLAUS REAL?"

by Hal Wright

Perhaps you have forgotten, as so many of us have, the true reality behind the idea of Santa Claus.

To most of us he is just an imaginary character out of our dreams, brought to life each year for the enjoyment of our children, and through our efforts we watch them eagerly await his arrival on the rooftop, with that big familiar bag full of joy, and the answer to some of their dreams to be found on Christmas morning and enjoyed the whole year through.

In another light, Santa Claus is real. The idea of him and the reindeer that pull his sleigh brings to us each year that same dream: A few days that cause us to change our entire outlook on life and our relationship with fellow men. An outlook which, by the way, could be one of the answers to our hopes and dreams for a world of Peace.

This is a very important thing to remember, and many of us tend to forget it in these tense times and hurried days of ours. Christmas is the one particular time of year that most people in the world prove that our hopes and dreams of Peace and Good Will toward men are not just dreams, that they actually can come true, and for the most part, do come true — if only for a few days.

So you see, the idea of Santa Claus is real, in that this time of year brings us as close to a world of Peace and Good Will as we ever get.

This year let us capture the idea of Santa Claus, not the one our children have, but rather the idea of him, that in some mysterious way so drastically changes this world of ours, if only for a few days.

With this idea as a foundation and the help of God, let us strive to make it a better world in 1962. Let us put the idea of Santa Claus in our own stocking, to be found on Christmas morning and enjoyed the whole year through.

Let us all have a Very Merry Christmas and a Most Prosperous New Year — a New Year filled with the wonderful idea of Santa Claus.